ARTICLE 13

Charges for Airports and Aviation Facilities and Services

1. For the purposes of this Article, "user charge" means a charge imposed on airlines for the provision of airport, air navigation, or aviation safety or security facilities or services including related services and facilities.

2. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that any user charge that may be imposed by the competent charging authorities or bodies of a Contracting Party on the airlines of the other Contracting Party for the use of air navigation and air traffic control services is just, reasonable, and not unjustly discriminatory. The user charge shall be assessed on the airlines of the other Contracting Party on terms not less favourable than the most favourable terms available to any other airline.

3. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that user charges that may be imposed by the competent charging authorities or bodies of a Contracting Party on the airlines of the other Contracting Party for the use of airport, aviation security and related facilities and services is just, reasonable, not unjustly discriminatory, and equitably apportioned among categories of users. The user charges shall be assessed on the airlines of the other Contracting Party on terms not less favourable than the most favourable terms available to any other airline at the time the charges are assessed.

4. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that user charges imposed under paragraph 3 of this Article on the airlines of the other Contracting Party may reflect, but does not exceed, the full cost to the competent charging authorities or bodies for providing the appropriate airport, aviation security and related facilities and services at the airport or within the airport system. The user charges may include a reasonable return on assets, after depreciation. Facilities and services for which charges are made shall be provided on an efficient and cost-effective basis.

5. Each Contracting Party shall encourage consultations between the competent charging authorities or bodies in its territory and the airlines or their representative bodies using the services and facilities, and shall encourage the competent charging authorities or bodies and the airlines or their representative bodies to exchange such information as may be necessary to permit an accurate review of the reasonableness of the charges in accordance with the principles of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article. Each Contracting Party shall encourage the competent charging authorities to provide users with reasonable notice of any proposal for changes in user charges to enable users to express their views before changes are made.